

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00

FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01

PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-06

EA-07 NEA-10 OIC-02 /159 W

-----051837Z 020282 /41

P 051728Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3538

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FOR DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, PORG, PLOS, IMCO, UK

SUBJECT: IMCO: REPORTED US GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR
SENATE TANKER SAFETY LEGISLATION

REF: STATE 101505 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ADVERSE REACTIONS IN UK TO EMERGENCE OF SENATOR
MAGNUSON'S TANKER SAFETY BILL FROM SENATE COMMERCE COM-
MITTEE AND TO REPORTS THAT ADMINISTRATION WILL SUPPORT
IT. CHARGES BEING MADE THAT IN SUPPORTING THIS "UNILAT-
ERAL REGULATORY LEGISLATION" US WOULD BE RENEGING ON ITS
COMMITMENT MADE AT IMCO MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
IN APRIL TO HOLD UP ON UNILATERAL REGULATION UNTIL IMCO
MEMBER STATES HAD HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO FULLY CONSIDER
AND NEGOTIATE ON THE MEASURES THROUGH PREPARATORY MEETING
AND A PLENIPOTENTIARY NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE IN FEB. 1978
END SUMMARY.

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1. LLOYD'S LIST AND JOURNAL OF COMMERCE HAVE CARRIED
REPORTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING (ICS) AND
GENERAL COUNCIL OF BRITISH SHIPPING (GCBS) NEGATIVE REAC-
TIONS TO TANKER SAFETY BILL EMERGING FROM SENATE COMMERCE
COMMITTEE. ICS REPORTEDLY "SURPRISED AND CONCERNED" AT
SENATE BILL INCORPORATING PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSALS TO

IMCO AND EXPECTED ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT FOR BILL. ICS STATED THAT UNILATERAL MOVE APPEARED TO GO AGAINST THE US DELEGATION TO IMCO'S ASSURANCE THAT NO SUCH ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN UNTIL IMCO HAD CONSIDERED THE MEASURES. THE US DELEGATE AT THE ICS MEETING, JIM REYNOLDS, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MERCHANT SHIPPING, WAS REPORTEDLY ALSO TAKEN ABACK BY THE DEVELOPMENT.

2. DIRECTOR-GENERAL WOOD OF GCBS AT A DINNER OF SOUTH WALES BRANCH OF INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED SHIPBROKERS ALSO ATTACKED THE APPARENT UNILATERAL NATURE OF US TANKER REGULATION, PARTICULARLY THE SHIP DESIGN AND EQUIPMENT PROVISIONS. WOOD SAID, "PRESIDENT CARTER SHOULD KNOW IF YOU WANT TO REDUCE ACCIDENTS THE ANSWER IS NOT MORE EQUIPMENT, BUT A DRIVE TO ERADICATE THE REAL CAUSE--HUMAN FAILURE."

3. SEATRADE MAGAZINE IN ITS MAY 17 ISSUE WILL PUBLISH AN ARTICLE ON THE SENATE BILL BY STAFF REPORTER TREVOR LONES. HE HAS SEEN THE LATEST VERSION OF THE BILL AS HELD BY THE ICS AND HAS RECEIVED ITS ASSISTANCE IN ANALYZING THE NEW FEATURES. HE STRESSED IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER THAT US UNILATERAL REGULATION IN SENATE BILL WAS DANGEROUS LOS PRECEDENT AND COMPLAINED OF US MAKING PROPOSAL FOR NEGOTIATION IN IMCO WHICH ADMINISTRATION WOULD UNDERCUT IN SUPPORTING BILL.

4. ARCHER OF UK DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND ADM. GRAHAM OF ICS INTERESTED IN KNOWING HOW FEATURES OF NEW BILL WILL IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRACTICE PROVIDE TIME AND SPACE FOR IMCO NEGOTIATION OF NEW INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS WHICH US ASKED FOR AT RECENT IMCO MSC MEETING. THEY ARE INTERESTED IN ADMINISTRATION'S TIMETABLE FOR PASSAGE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATION AND ITS COORDINATION WITH IMCO PREPARATORY MEETINGS, SPECIAL IMCO CONFERENCE IN FEB. 1978, AND RATIFICATION OF RESULTING PROTOCOLS IN 1974 SOLAS AND 1973 OIL POLLUTION CONVENTIONS.

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
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DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00
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PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-06
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5. EMBASSY DISCUSSED MATTER WITH IMCO SECGEN SRIVASTAVA WHO IS CONCERNED ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF POSSIBLE ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT FOR SENATE TANKER SAFETY BILL UPON PROGRESS OF US MARINE POLLUTION INITIATIVE WITHIN IMCO. HE CONSIDERED INITIATIVE HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY OTHER IMCO MEMBER STATES AND WAS MOVING. LATEST DEVELOPMENT COULD HURT INITIATIVE AND IMCO. HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT US SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ADAMS ADDRESS AT IMCO COUNCIL MEETING MAY 23 WOULD BE ABLE TO SORT MATTER OUT FOR IMCO MEMBERS AND SPEED WORK ON US MARINE POLLUTION INITIATIVE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/007c179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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